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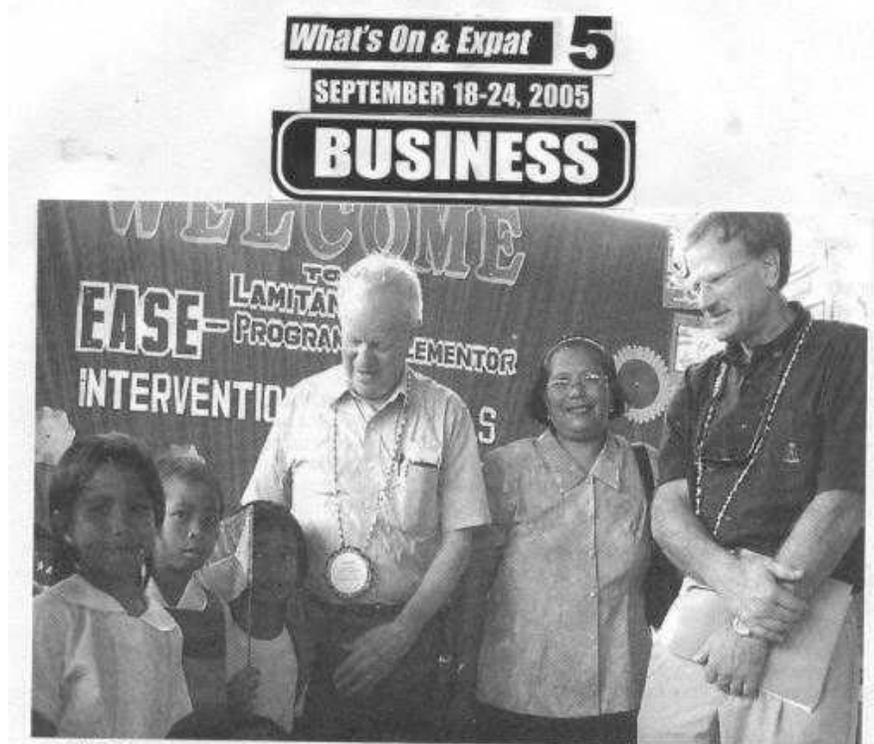
(632) 552-9907

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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #12 (SO12)

(Conflict Reduced in Mindanao and Other Areas Vulnerable to Violence)



INVESTING IN THE YOUNG. U.S. Charge d'Affaires Amb. Darryl Johnson (3rd from right) and USAID Mission Director John Lindborg meet with students and teachers at the Jose Rizal Elementary School in Lamitan, one of the schools provided with books and other educational materials in Basilan by the EQuALLS project of the United States Agency for International Development. USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program has also connected 10 schools in the province to the Internet, bringing to 209 the total number of school linked in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to the World Wide Web. USAID supports a wide range of community-based development activities in Mindanao, including increasing private sector investment to create jobs; strengthening education and accountable governance; rehabilitating roads, ports and water supply systems; implementing renewable energy projects; improving health services; and fostering improved management of forests and coastal resources.

(Source: What's on & Expat, 9/18-24/05 issue, page 5)